



**Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Southern District of Texas**

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**JURY CONVICTS DIRECT LINK TO SOURCE-OF-DRUG SUPPLY**

LAREDO, TX – Humberto Garcia, also known as “Beto,” 38, of Laredo, was convicted by a jury’s verdict returned today following a four day trial for his involvement in a marijuana trafficking conspiracy involved with thousands of kilograms of marijuana, announced United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle. The charges against Garcia are the result of “Operation Scalebreakers,” an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation.

During the trial, the United States presented evidence that proved to the jury that between May 2000 to August 2003, 10 different loads of marihuana -- totaling 20,000 pounds -- being transported by trucks were intercepted by law enforcement at either the IH-35 Checkpoint or the 359 Checkpoint. Over the years, law enforcement officials saw a pattern emerging that showed that each and every truck driver was somehow connected to Oscar Palacios, who owned a trucking company named Consumer Products. Years of investigation revealed that Palacios hired tractor trailer drivers to transport bulk quantities of marihuana to Dallas, Texas.

Follow-up investigation ultimately led to the identification of the co-conspirators who were supplying Palacios with the marihuana to be transported. One of these co-conspirators was Humberto Garcia. The evidence proved that Garcia was directly linked to the source of supply of the narcotics in Mexico. Although Garcia was never caught with narcotics, the evidence at trial showed an elaborate scheme behind this huge distribution cell.

Garcia is facing a minimum mandatory term of imprisonment of twenty (20) years due to a prior narcotics conviction from Kansas in July of 2002 and a maximum of life imprisonment for his convictions. To date, 21 other defendants have been convicted as a result of this OCDETF investigation dubbed Operation Scalebreakers.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Marina Garcia Marmolejo.

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